

**REMARKS**

A petition to extend the time for response by three (3) months is enclosed herewith.

Claims 4-7 are pending. Claim 7 is added. Claims 4 and 6-7 are independent.

Applicants thank Examiner Elve for the courtesies extended to the Applicants' representatives during a personal interview on September 5, 2007.

**The Claimed Invention**

An exemplary embodiment of the present invention, as recited by, for example, independent claim 7, is directed to a method for producing nozzle-type openings in spray arms for dishwashing machines. The method includes blow-molding a plastic spray arm blank, and cutting a nozzle into the surface of the spray arm blank by a laser. The nozzle is sharp-edged to create a constriction of a stream passing through the nozzle.

Conventional methods have relied upon cutting and/or milling operations to form the nozzles. These processes are cost-intensive and require subsequent processing in which the spray arm blanks must be clamped. These clamping devices undergo wear and require maintenance.

Further, it is very difficult to produce variations of openings using the conventional methods. The conventional methods are not flexible. For example, production of a new variation of a nozzle is time and cost-intensive to adapt, rework, and test the devices that form the nozzle.

In stark contrast to the conventional methods, an exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides cuts a sharp-edged nozzle into the surface of the spray arm blank using a laser. In this manner, the claimed invention is capable of flexibly and inexpensively providing nozzles to spray arms.

**New Claim 7**

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the method of the claimed invention including blow-molding a plastic spray arm blank, and cutting a nozzle into the surface of the spray arm blank by a laser. The cutting creating a nozzle that is sharp-edged to create a constriction of a stream passing through the opening.

Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 7 is allowable over the applied references.

**The Ohe et al. reference**

The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ohe et al. reference. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including device for producing nozzle-type openings in spray arms for dishwasher machines that includes a device for releasably securing the spray arm blank in a fixed position, and a laser disposed relative to the arranged on the device for releasably securing the spray arm blank in a fixed position. The laser being operable to remove material on the surface of a spray arm blank secured in the fixed position so as to form nozzle-type openings in the spray arm blank.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

**The Armstrong reference in view of the Ohe et al. reference**

The Office Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Armstrong reference in view of the Ohe et al. reference. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including a method for producing nozzle-type openings in spray arms for dishwasher machines that includes removing, via laser, material on the surface of a spray arm blank after the spray arm blank has been produced so as to form nozzle-type openings in the spray arm blank.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

**The Armstrong reference in view of the Ohe et al. reference and in further view of the Ota reference**

The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Armstrong reference in view of the Ohe et al. reference and in further view of the Ota reference. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention wherein removing, via laser, material on the surface of a spray arm blank includes removing material so as to form nozzle-type openings having shapes deviating from a circular shape.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the present application. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned.

If required, Applicants petition for an extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,



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